

## Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11 OMB-01

TRSE-00 RSR-01 /183 W

----- 121924

R 171140Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9448

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY OUGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TEL AVIV 6490

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CORRECT GARBLED PARAGRAPH 3.)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAU, IS, XA

SUBJ: ISRAELI-AFRICAN RELATIONS

REF: TEL AVIV 4148 NOTAL

1. SUMMARY. ACCORDING TO MFA, ISRAELIS ARE LESS TROUBLED

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BY OAU SUMMIT OUTCOME THAN THEY HAD ANTICIPATED (REFTEL).

IT APPEARS THAT EBANS TRIP TO AFRICA HAS BEEN POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. ISRAEL HAS NO INTENTION OF CUTTING BACK ITS PRESENCE IN AND ASSISTANCE TO AFRICA, BUT PRESS STORIES TO THIS EFFECT HAVE HURT ISRAEL'S AFRICAN TIES. ISRAELIS BELIEVE NO MIDDLE EAST INITIATIVE BY HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY LIKELY BEFORE HIS OCTOBER WASHINGTON VISIT. ONLY COUNTRY CURRENTLY ON GOI LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR BREAKING RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL IS DAHOMEY, WITH WHICH RELATIONS SINCE SPRING (REFTEL) HAVE IF ANYTHING DETERIORATED STILL FURTHER. ELSEWHERE IN WEST AFRICA, ISRAEL'S SITUATION HAS STABILIZED. END SUMMARY.

2. OAU SUMMIT AND NIGERIA. IN TOUR D HORIZON AUGUST 15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR SHER OF MFA WEST AFRICAN DIVISION TOLD EMBOFF ISRAEL WAS DISAPPOINTED WITH OAU SUMMIT IN THAT PREPARATORY MEETING OF OAU FONMINS HAD GIVEN RISE TO HOPE IN GOI THAT OUTCOME MIGHT BE LESS NEGATIVE. BUT MORE IMPORTANT TO ISRAEL THAN OAU RESOLUTION WAS POSSIBLE EFFECT OF GOWON'S ELEVATION WITHIN ORGANIZATION OF ISRAELI-NIGERIAN BILATERALS. SHER SAID ISRAEL UNDERSTOOD GOWON HAD TO MAKE PRO-ARAB STATEMENT ON RETURN TO NIGERIA. THERE WERE FIVE VERSIONS OF WHAT HE ACTUALLY SAID, AND GOI TOOK SATISFACTION IN FACT THAT OFFICIAL VERSION CONTAINED NO THREAT OF BREAK IN NIGERIAN-ISRAELI RELATIONS.

3. POSTPONEMENT OF EBAN'S TRIP TO AFRICA. SHER INSISTED IT WAS TRUE AS MFA HAD INDICATED IN JUNE THAT POSTPONEMENT RESULTED FROM BOTH POLITICAWL AND TECHNICAL REASONS. POLITICAL REASON WAS IT UNBECOMING FOR EBAN TO GO TO AFRICA SO SOON AFTER OAU SUMMIT. TECHNICAL REASON WAS EBAN COULD NOT AFFORD TO BE GONE SO LONG FROM ISRAEL DURING KNESSET ELECTION CAMPAIGN. WHEN EMBOFF POINTED OUT EBAN ABLE TO FIND TIME THIS MONTH -- THAT IS, MUCH CLOSER TO OCTOBER ISRAELI ELECTION -- TO GO TO LATIN AMERICA, SHER REPLIED LATIN AMERICAN TRIP PLANNED LONG AGO. SHER THEN VOLUNTEERED HE PERSONALLY THOUGHT IDEA OF EBAN AFRICAN TRIP HAD BEEN MISTAKE FROM OUTSET. EBAN COULD ILL AFFORD TOMAKE TRIP EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER OAU SUMMIT, AND PROBABLY LAST POINT AT WHICH SUCH TRIP WOULD HAVE BEENUSEFUL WAS MARCH OF THIS YEAR. SHER ADDED THAT NONE OF AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAD AGREED TO RECEIVE EBAN IN JUNE EXPRESSED MUCH DISAPPOINTMENT UPON LEARNING OF CANCELLATION AND IMPLIED SOME EARLIER HAD HINTED

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CANCELLATION WOULD BE GOOD IDEA.

4. RUMORS OF CUTBACK IN ISRAELI PRESENCE IN AFRICA. WHEN EMBOFF RAISED ARTICLES WHICH HAD APPEARED IN ISRAELI PRESS IN JUNE SUGGESTING ACROSS THE BOARD CUTBACK IN OFFING, SHER SAID THESE WERE TOTALLY INACCURATE AND WERE SUPECULATIONS ARISING FROM NORMAL EXPIRATION OF GOI'S CONTACT FOR MILITARY ADVISORS IN ONE AFRICAN COUNTRY. SHER SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THESE NEWS ITEMS HAD

CAUSED ISRAEL NO DIFFICULTIES, RASH OF SPECULATION HAD OCCURRED IN MAY BECAUSE OF INACCURATE STORY IN ISRAELI NEWSPAPER (MAARIV) TO EFFECT THAT ISRAEL PLANNING TO LIMIT ITS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THIRD WORLD TO ONLY ETHIOPIA, KENYA, AND IRAN. SHER EXPLAINED MAARIV CANARD RESULTED FROM MID-MAY MEETING OF GOI MINISTERIAL ECONOMIC COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS GUARANTEES OF ISRAELI THIRD-WORLD INVESTMENTS. NEED FOR MEETING HAD GROWN OUT OF ISRAEL'S-UGANDA DEBACLE. BUT THOUGHT OF CUTBACK IN ISRAELI ASSISTANCE TO AFRICAN NATIONS WAS NOT EVEN COUNTERANCED AT MEETING. FALSE STORY ABOUT IMPENDING CUTBACK WAS AS HELPFUL TO ARAB PLANS FOR OAU SUMMIT AS ANYTHING ISRAELI PRESS COULD HAVE PRODUCED: ETHIOPIANS IN PARTICULAR WERE EMBARRASSED BY IT, BELEAGUED AS THEY WERE OVER ARAB DRIVE TO MOVE OAU HEADQUARTERS FROM ADDIS TO CAIRO, WHILE OTHER FRIENDLY AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS GREW MORE SKEPTICAL ABOUT UTILITY OF STAYING OFF ARABS BANDWAGON.

5. IVORY COAST POSTURE RE MIDDLE EAST. SHER SAID THAT ALTHOUGH ISRAEL HAD HAD SOME UNEASY MOMENTS, HE WAS NOW CERTAIN THAT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY WOULD MAKE NO MOVE IN MIDDLE EAST MEDIATION ARENA BEFORE HIS OCTOBER VISIT TO WASHINGTON. SHER WAS REASONABLY CERTAIN ISRAELIS HAD SUCCEEDED IN DEFLATING SOME OF HOUPHOUETS IDEAS. ISRAELI READING OF HIS THINKING NOW WAS THAT ONLY SOLUTION IN MIDDLE EAST WOULD BE FOR US TO INDUCE SOVIETS TO PUT PRESSURE ON ARABS TO ENTER INTO DIRECT TALKS WITH ISRAEL. NEVETHELESS, FACT HOUPHOUET GOING TO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE FOR FIRST TIME INDICATIVE OF HIS DETERMINATION TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH RADICAL AFRICAN REGIMES AND NORTH AFRICAN ARABS. SHER SAW TWO MOTIVATIONS; (A) INTERNAL PRESSURES ON HOUPHOUET, ESPECIALLY FROM PROGRESSIVE YOUN, TO END IVORIAN ISOLATION IN AFRICAN CONTEXT AND CATCH UP WITH TIMES; AND (B) DESIRE TO STEAL SOME LIMELIGHT FROM SENGHOR AS WEST AFRICAN STATESMAN. AS FOR HOUPHOUETS US VISIT IN OCTOBER, SHER BELIEVED HOUPHOUET NOT ONLY PLANNED TO URGE US APPROACH TO SOVIETS RE MIDDLE EAST ON PRESIDENT

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NIXON BUT ALSO WAS EXPECTING TO REAP IMPORTANT BENEFITS FROM ALL MODERATE GOVERNMENTS IN AFRICA IN TERMS OF US POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT AS CONSEQUENCE OF HIS TALK WITH PRESIDENT.

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NNN

MRN: 1973TEL AV006490 SEGMENT NUMBER: 000002 ERROR READING TEXT INDEX  
FILE; TELEGRAM TEXT FOR THIS SEGMENT IS UNAVAILABLE



## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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